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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
World situation with regard to drug trafficking and recommendations of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission

Action taken by the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Five meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2015: the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, held in Brussels from 22 to 25 June; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Algiers from 14 to 18 September; the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 5 to 9 October; the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 19 to 22 October; and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November.

2. Following a review of trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation, each of the subsidiary bodies discussed drug law enforcement issues of priority in its region and formulated a set of recommendations. Consideration of the issues was facilitated by the discussions that had been held during informal meetings of the working groups established for that purpose. In addition, the implementation of previous recommendations was reviewed by each of the subsidiary bodies.

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3. The recommendations set out below were made by the subsidiary bodies at the above-mentioned meetings. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the participants in the meetings agreed to submit the recommendations — which had been made on the basis of the deliberations of their respective working groups — to the Commission at its fifty-ninth session as regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. They also considered follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action.

4. The reports of the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe (UNODC/HONEURO/11/6), the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa (UNODC/HONLAF/25/6), the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean (UNODC/HONLAC/25/6), the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (UNODC/HONLAP/39/6), and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission (UNODC/SUBCOM/50/6) will be made available to the Commission in the working languages of the respective subsidiary bodies. The reports are also available on the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

II. Matters calling for action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs or brought to its attention

5. At its fiftieth session, the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East recommended to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Abu Dhabi declaration

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[1] adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 67/193 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments,

Welcoming the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 of 18 December 2014 that the Commission on Narcotic

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner,

Resolving to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10 of 15 March 2013, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard,

Welcoming the outcomes of the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015,

Takes note of the Abu Dhabi declaration, which is annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

Abu Dhabi declaration

We, the representatives of States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, gathered at the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 12 November 2015,

Recalling the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[a] in which it was recognized that the world drug problem remained a common and shared responsibility that required effective and increased international cooperation and demanded an integrated, multidisciplinary, mutually reinforcing and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction strategies,

Gravely concerned about the growing threat posed by the drug problem to the region,

Recalling that the three international drug conventions are the cornerstone of international drug control policy,

Also recalling that the use and possession, including possession for personal consumption, of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances shall be limited to medical and scientific purposes, in accordance with the international drug control framework,

Reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of States and non-intervention, as well as the principle of common and shared responsibility, when addressing the world drug problem,

[a] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Have agreed to make the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should take into account regional perspectives on and approaches to addressing the world drug problem, with full respect for the cultural and religious specificities of each region;

(b) Governments are encouraged to oppose any form of legalization of drugs, in accordance with the three international drug conventions, and to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes and various aspects of the world drug problem, to ensure an efficient way of addressing it;

(c) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its field offices should maintain their leading role in providing capacity-building coordination and technical assistance to Member States in countering the world drug problem at the national, regional and interregional levels;

(d) In the Near and Middle East, priority attention should be given to addressing the production of, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs affecting the region, in particular opiates, cocaine, amphetamine-type stimulants, including new psychoactive substances and Captagon, and tramadol;

(e) Coordination among regional law enforcement information centres, such as the Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime, should be encouraged under the "networking the networks" initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(f) Governments are encouraged to improve access to quality drug dependence treatment services and ensure access to essential psychotropic and narcotic drugs for medical purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse;

(g) In addressing money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from illicit drug trafficking, Governments are encouraged to strengthen national coordination between their counter-narcotics law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units in responding to international requests for mutual legal assistance.

III. Recommendations of the subsidiary bodies

6. The recommendations below were transmitted by the subsidiary bodies for consideration and action by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session.

A. Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at its fiftieth session

7. In addition to recommending the adoption of a draft resolution, at its fiftieth session, the Subcommission adopted the recommendations set forth below, which had been drawn up by its working groups.

1. Counteracting new trends in the use of technology by drug traffickers

8. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Counteracting new trends in the use of technology by drug traffickers":

(a) Governments should support close cooperation between their national law enforcement agencies, Internet service providers, postal services and courier companies to develop effective and integrated controls to meet the challenge of Internet-based pharmacies and similar websites selling illicit drugs and controlled pharmaceutical preparations;

(b) Governments should encourage their law enforcement authorities to regularly coordinate and exchange information about current trends in detected cybercrime offences and the persons or groups identified as the originators of those offences and to share best practices and countermeasures to successfully investigate those offences;

(c) Governments are encouraged to utilize the technical assistance programmes available through UNODC to build the professional capacity of their authorities to successfully investigate, gather evidence and prosecute cybercrime and related offences.

2. Dynamics of and current trends in the region's illicit drug markets

9. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Dynamics of and current trends in the region's illicit drug markets":

(a) Member States are encouraged to adopt national strategies to prevent the misuse and abuse of prescription drugs and psychotropic substances;

(b) Member States are encouraged to review their current drug control frameworks so as to ensure they support a balanced response encompassing drug prevention, drug dependence treatment, care and rehabilitation, prevention of health and social consequences and ensuring access to controlled drugs for medical purposes, as well as supply reduction;

(c) Member States are encouraged to strengthen their national drug demand reduction strategies so that they are comprehensive, evidence-based and supported by monitoring and evaluation.

3. Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

10. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows":

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units to work together and promptly respond to requests for information and support with financial investigations from foreign competent authorities;

(b) Governments should support the establishment of inter-agency joint investigation teams to investigate the laundering of the proceeds of drug trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to make use of the specialized technical support available through UNODC to strengthen their capacity to combat money-laundering and related offences.

B. Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

11. Prior to making the recommendations below, the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments were identified;

(d) Welcomed the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

(e) Also welcomed in that regard the adoption by the Commission of its resolutions 57/5 and 58/8, on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(f) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard;

(g) Submitted the regional recommendations of the working groups, aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, that are set out below.

1. Airport Communication Project

12. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Airport Communication Project":

(a) Governments are encouraged to continue their financial and technical support to the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) of UNODC so as to support the establishment of new operational joint airport interdiction task force units and the ongoing professional development of established operations;

(b) Where they have not already done so, airport-based law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to open a dialogue with the joint airport interdiction task force units, formed under the AIRCOP initiative, to commence information-sharing and to build professional networks that will in turn support more effective operational responses against trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to support initiatives that facilitate close operational cooperation in the sharing of information between authorities (such as advance passenger information, passenger name records and advance cargo information), in accordance with applicable privacy requirements, to enable effective and timely risk assessment of passengers and airfreight.

2. Container Control Programme

13. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Container Control Programme":

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to work more closely with drug source countries and transit States through capacity-building programmes such as the UNODC/World Customs Organization (WCO) Container Control Programme;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to assist other countries in investigating drug seizures made in containerized freight destined for Europe, so as to secure the conviction of those who organize those shipments and the dismantlement of the organized criminal networks that profit from their operation;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to support source countries by making law enforcement experts and relevant technical equipment available to them to improve the technical skills and professional knowledge of their border law enforcement agencies in assessing the threat from organized criminal groups involved in illicit drug trafficking through their territories and designing measures to counter them.

3. Handling synthetic drug production and responding to changing trends in drug use, new psychoactive substances and precursors

14. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Handling synthetic drug production and responding to changing trends in drug use, new psychoactive substances and precursors":

(a) Governments are encouraged to urgently address the necessary control measures regarding the status of new psychoactive substances, which are sometimes marketed as "legal highs", so as to remove ambiguity in the minds of consumers;

(b) Governments are encouraged to urgently undertake research regarding the harmful effects of new psychoactive substances on human health, and to take steps to improve the knowledge of their law enforcement authorities about the manufacture and supply of such substances, including the involvement of organized criminal groups in their trafficking and distribution;

(c) Given the important role the Internet plays in promoting the sale of new psychoactive substances, and given the use made of international postal and courier services to deliver them, Governments are encouraged to support their law enforcement agencies in establishing close partnerships with the services concerned to develop new and effective strategies to intercept such substances, including by encouraging the development and use of relevant technical equipment.

4. Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

15. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows":

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies to share information with their national financial intelligence units at the early stages of investigations;

(b) Governments are encouraged to establish inter-agency joint investigation teams to investigate the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to support UNODC in the implementation of capacity-building to combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking.

C. Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

16. Prior to making the recommendations below, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level

segment to a theme related to the world drug problem and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments were identified;

(d) Acknowledged, in accordance with the assessment contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement, that many challenges relating to the world drug problem had persisted and that new ones had emerged in some parts of the world, and that those new challenges needed to be taken into account in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(e) Emphasized the importance of a broad, transparent and inclusive discussion among Member States held in multilateral settings and based on scientific evidence. The discussion should take on board input from other relevant stakeholders as appropriate, focus on the most effective ways to counter the world drug problem in a manner consistent with the three international drug control conventions and other relevant international instruments, and further the implementation of the commitments and targets set out in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(f) Welcomed the adoption by the Commission of its resolution 57/5, on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016. In the resolution, the Commission underlined the importance of the special session as a milestone on the way to 2019, the target date set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for achieving targets and goals set out therein, recognized the leading role of the Commission as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters in the preparations for the special session and decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

(g) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, pursuant to Commission resolution 56/10, in which it requested the meetings of its subsidiary bodies to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on the progress made and by submitting regional recommendations aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(h) Agreed to make the recommendations presented below.

1. Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking

17. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Designing effective strategies to address cannabis trafficking":

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are urged to develop well-defined national strategies to address the domestic cultivation of illicit crops, in particular cannabis, and the factors driving their ongoing cultivation;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to undertake efforts to establish an open and direct dialogue with farmers on crop substitution and related community improvement programmes in order to persuade them of the benefits of cultivating licit crops as alternatives to cannabis;

(c) Governments of the region must do more to encourage and support their law enforcement authorities to develop and strengthen regional and subregional collaboration in information-sharing and investigation support, as well as coordination among agencies at the national level, in order to effectively counter trafficking and organized crime;

(d) Governments should establish comprehensive strategies for drug demand reduction that include public education, research, policy formulation, treatment and rehabilitation, in order to address the challenge posed by the illicit use of cannabis, especially among young people.

2. Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking

18. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Border control measures and other methods to curtail drug trafficking":

(a) Governments must support and strengthen regional cooperation among law enforcement agencies in Africa in the exchange of information, the responses given to requests for investigation and related assistance and collaboration in coordinated operations against drug trafficking;

(b) In view of the exponential growth in volume of trade and passenger volumes by air, land and sea, and in view of the need to ensure that borders are well protected, Governments are encouraged to review their national strategies related to border management, examine the degree of cooperation between border agencies and assess the application of current controls;

(c) Governments are encouraged to join international cooperation initiatives such as AIRCOP and the UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme in order to improve the potential of their border protection, benefit from the synergies those initiatives create and build on the platforms they provide to develop their own bilateral or multilateral agreements to facilitate information-sharing and operational cooperation.

3. Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities

19. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Judicial challenges, including differences in legislation, penalties and forensic capabilities":

(a) Governments of the region should ensure that their law enforcement authorities are aware of the importance of forensic science in the context of drug investigations and that they are trained in the gathering, preservation and presentation of forensic evidence and in maintaining the chain of custody of exhibits, in order to successfully carry through prosecutions against offenders;

(b) Governments must take steps to ensure that forensic science services, which support the front-line work of drug enforcement agencies, prosecution services and the judiciary in the investigation and prosecution of offenders, are adequately trained, funded and equipped to perform their tasks;

(c) Governments are encouraged to review "Minimum requirements for identification of seized drugs: A document for emerging laboratories", published in 2014 by the International Forensic Strategic Alliance, in collaboration with UNODC and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), with a view to guiding their progress towards meeting the global standards for forensic laboratory accreditation by 2025;

(d) Governments are also encouraged to ensure that their regulations for the destruction of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are carried out in a timely manner and in accordance with their legal provisions;

(e) Governments should formulate and/or harmonize legislation both in the region and within countries;

(f) Governments should adopt and improve legal texts that pertain to the repatriation of capital associated with the drug trade;

(g) In the absence of harmonized legislation, Governments should be encouraged to make effective use of existing subregional and regional cooperation protocols that address judicial challenges posed by drug trafficking and related offences.

D. Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean

20. Before making the recommendations below, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, early in 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments were identified;

(d) Welcomed the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

(e) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard;

(f) Submitted the regional recommendations of the working groups, aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, that are set out below.

1. Prevention, investigation and prosecution of microtrafficking and its links to transnational criminal networks

21. With regard to the topic entitled "Prevention, investigation and prosecution of microtrafficking and its links to transnational criminal networks", the following recommendations were made:

(a) In developing an effective law enforcement response to microtrafficking, Governments should ensure that authorities apply all the specialist law enforcement responses available to them when investigating and prosecuting those who have been acting with impunity to profit from it;

(b) To be effective in combating microtrafficking, Governments must take steps to introduce demand reduction programmes, apply effective law enforcement controls and establish programmes for sustainable social development in those communities most at risk;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to address microtrafficking by adopting an integrated multi-agency response in which local government, criminal justice agencies, community organizations and youth organizations work with groups and communities at risk.

2. Border management

22. With regard to the topic entitled "Border management", the following recommendations were made:

(a) Growing trade volumes, passenger numbers and numbers of international vessel movements should encourage Governments to develop border management strategies that will support inter-agency cooperation and best utilize the existing legislative powers, professional experience and operational resources of their law enforcement authorities;

(b) In response to the use of light aircraft to transport illicit drugs across the region's international borders, Governments should take steps to develop a rapid response platform for operational cooperation with neighbouring States and regional counterparts to enable their law enforcement and security services to coordinate quickly and respond appropriately;

(c) Governments of the region are encouraged to develop closer cooperation and coordination in managing their maritime and land borders.

3. Acting effectively to address current trends in trafficking in cocaine, and curbing access to the supply of precursor chemicals

23. With regard to the topic entitled "Acting effectively to address current trends in trafficking in cocaine, and curbing access to the supply of precursor chemicals", the following recommendations were made:

(a) Where they have not already done so, Governments are encouraged to establish a collaborative relationship with their domestic chemical industry and associated distributors in order to foster the ready communication of information needed by authorities to maintain controls over precursor chemicals;

(b) Governments must encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to forge relationships of trust with their operational counterparts across the region and develop strategies and procedures with them, so as to better target the movement of cocaine and the persons responsible for its transport;

(c) Governments are encouraged to act to better fulfil their reporting obligations to the International Narcotics Control Board and provide information on seizures and on stopped and suspicious shipments of chemicals included in Tables I and II of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and on seizures and stopped and suspicious shipments of non-controlled substances, so as to identify the source of the chemicals and their point of diversion.

4. Other recommendations

24. The following additional recommendations were made:

(a) The efforts Member States have made to achieve the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action should be acknowledged, given that difficulties and challenges persist in fully reaching those goals and in eliminating or reducing significantly and measurably by the target date of 2019 the illicit cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush and cannabis plant, in full respect of

traditional licit uses, as well as the illicit production, manufacture, marketing and distribution of psychotropic substances;

(b) Governments should develop clear and quantifiable indicators that show progress made and results achieved in the field of drug supply reduction; such indicators should not be limited to the quantity of drugs seized or the number of arrests made and should be balanced by an evaluation related to demand reduction-related objectives;

(c) Governments should enhance their efforts to counter the use by drug traffickers of new technologies, including the Internet, in compliance with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action;

(d) Governments should conduct additional studies to understand the structural causes underlying the world drug problem, including conditions of vulnerability and aggravating factors such as poverty, marginalization and violence that affect sustainable human development and have a negative impact on the social fabric;

(e) Governments should consider innovative approaches to the evolving challenge of new psychoactive substances and synthetic drugs, without prejudice to the availability of and access to controlled medicines;

(f) Governments should consider enhancing the balanced approach to demand and supply reduction referred to in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action with regard to themes such as human rights, gender and access to justice, as well as corruption and new forms of organized crime;

(g) Governments should strengthen their efforts to reduce violence related to illicit drug trafficking by remedying the vulnerabilities that aggravate the structural causes of the world drug problem;

(h) A multidisciplinary and participatory approach should be followed that includes the input and participation of various international and regional organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, in order to reinforce coherence and synergies;

(i) In implementing the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, Governments should take into account the human rights, security and development pillars of General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Doing so could also support the international strategy against drugs.

E. Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific

25. Prior to making the recommendations below, the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific:

(a) Recalled the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182, in which Member States decided, among other things, that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-seventh session, in 2014, should conduct a high-level review of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and its Plan of Action, recommended that the Economic and Social Council should devote a high-level segment to a theme related to the world drug problem and also recommended that the General Assembly should hold a special session to address the world drug problem;

(b) Also recalled General Assembly resolution 67/193, in which the Assembly decided to convene, in early 2016, a special session on the world drug problem to review the progress in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements and challenges in countering the world drug problem, within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments;

(c) Took note with appreciation of the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission, in which achievements, challenges and priorities for further action within the framework of the three international drug control conventions and other relevant United Nations instruments were identified;

(d) Welcomed the decision made by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/200 that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should lead the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016 by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner;

(e) Also welcomed in that regard the adoption by the Commission of its resolutions 57/5 and 58/8, on the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016, in which the Commission, inter alia, decided to take all possible measures to ensure an adequate, inclusive and effective preparatory process, with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders;

(f) Resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard;

(g) Submitted the regional recommendations of the working groups, aimed at moving forward in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, that are set out below.

1. Current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances

26. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Current trends in the manufacture, trafficking and consumption of amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances":

(a) Governments should be encouraged to develop national prevention strategies against amphetamine-type stimulants that aim to reduce demand, strengthen social policies and deliver targeted interventions that support vulnerable and at-risk individuals;

(b) With a view to encouraging the coordination of operational responses to combating the cross-border trafficking of amphetamine-type stimulants, Governments are urged to support their drug enforcement authorities and cooperate in the timely exchange of actionable information that will lead to effective interventions against syndicates and their operatives;

(c) Governments should support the establishment of inter-agency task forces that bring together the specialist skills of their interdiction agencies, organized crime investigators, forensic accounting experts and prosecutors, in response to the dynamic strategies adopted by trafficking syndicates and in order to be better prepared to dismantle and prosecute the transnational organizations that are involved in trafficking amphetamine-type stimulants across the region.

2. Successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics

27. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Successful solutions and practices in the area of forensics":

(a) Governments are encouraged to invest in their forensic laboratories, including in the training of staff involved in the identification, collection and securing of forensic evidence, and ensure that their country's legislation adequately supports the valuable contribution that forensic services provide to drug law enforcement and the handling of related offences;

(b) Governments should support regional cooperation in the forensic science sector as a means of enhancing the professional knowledge and skills of forensic practitioners, promoting the sharing of good practices and facilitating the exchange of information, such as drug-profiling data, for drug law enforcement purposes;

(c) Governments should facilitate the availability of reference standards for new psychoactive substances for use by their forensic science laboratories to aid in the detection and identification of such substances.

3. Harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level

28. The following recommendations were made with regard to the topic entitled "Harmonization of legislation and practices at the international level":

(a) Governments should take steps to review their procedures upon receipt of formal requests for mutual legal assistance from the drug enforcement authorities of other countries in order to ensure a timely response with minimal delays that might otherwise jeopardize an active investigation;

(b) Participating Governments are encouraged to use the Safe Mekong operation as a platform for strengthening closer operational collaboration;

(c) Governments are encouraged to actively support the Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Asia and the Pacific in the investigation, tracking and tracing of efforts to launder the proceeds of drug trafficking.

IV. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

29. The Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Thirty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, and the fiftieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East each considered an agenda item entitled, "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". For their consideration of the item, the participants in the meetings had before them the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (A/64/92-E/2009/98, sect. II.A) and Commission resolutions 56/10 and 56/12.

30. Participants in the meetings, inter alia, resolved to continue to support and contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2016, in view of the request made by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in its resolution 56/10, to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission to contribute to the monitoring of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action at the regional level by discussing regional views on progress made in that regard.

31. Participants were asked to consider the challenges posed to the States of the region with regard to the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, particularly part II of the Plan of Action, on supply reduction and related measures, but also the parts on demand reduction and related measures and on

countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation. It was emphasized that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/197, had encouraged the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies and the Subcommission to continue to contribute to the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.

32. Regarding the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, participants in the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, mentioned a number of issues to be dealt with in the context of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly. Those issues included the need for a scientific, evidence-based approach; the strengthening of the principle of common and shared responsibility, involving countries of production, transit and consumption; respect for the international drug control conventions; and respect for human rights. The importance of a multidisciplinary drug policy that included prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts in balance with supply reduction measures was also highlighted. Several delegations stressed the importance of effective international and regional cooperation and made reference to specific projects such as the Paris Pact initiative. The importance of adopting additional measures in countries with an extensive drug economy was also mentioned. The need to further enhance efforts to address organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking was emphasized, in particular the need to concentrate on depriving them of their financial resources through asset tracing and confiscation. Reference was made to new legislative action taken by several countries, including the introduction of non-conviction-based asset recovery and the sharing of confiscated assets among States concerned.

33. During the consideration of the item at the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, reference was made by one speaker to the organization of regional meetings, including meetings with the participation of civil society organizations, for the purpose of increasing awareness of and providing inputs to the preparatory process for the special session. It was proposed that regional partnerships should be involved in order to enhance the preparatory process. Reference was made to the Russian-African anti-drug dialogue, held in Banjul in July 2015, at which the heads of African bodies and organizations involved in fighting drug trafficking had discussed, inter alia, the transit of drugs through the African continent. Furthermore, speakers appealed to the international community to support their countries' efforts to address the cultivation and trafficking of cannabis in the region and the production and trafficking of methamphetamines and other illicit drugs both within the continent and between Africa and other regions of the world. UNODC was requested to provide, or continue to provide, the necessary support to raise awareness within the region of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to provide assistance to States in establishing forensic laboratories.

34. At the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, inter alia, some speakers referred to the debate on possible new approaches to the world drug problem currently taking place in the region. The debate had been started by some Governments that considered that the efforts conducted so far to solve the drug problem had not been effective or sufficient. Some speakers considered that the goals set in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action for the elimination or significant reduction of the cultivation,

demand and supply of illicit drugs could not realistically be reached by the target date, in 2019. Others stressed that, notwithstanding the magnitude of the world drug problem, the international community should continue striving to reduce significantly and measurably the world drug problem's different manifestations, with the ultimate goal of protecting the health and welfare of humankind.

35. At the same meeting, some speakers took the view that, while in the Political Declaration, Member States had reiterated that the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility requiring a comprehensive and balanced approach to supply and demand reduction, it was for individual Member States to determine what constituted a balanced approach. Additionally, in the view of some delegations, there had been progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action, but some areas required additional efforts. Some speakers stressed the need for an approach to drug control based on human rights and health that included the decriminalization of drug consumption and the social inclusion of drug users. Reference was also made to the need for placing the drug issue in the context of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, cooperation between UNODC and entities such as UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should be strengthened, in order to achieve coherence and synergy within the United Nations system.

36. At the Thirty-ninth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, one speaker noted that his Government had submitted a contribution to the draft outcome document of the special session, with a particular focus on the relationship between the treatment and punishment of drug abusers.

37. At the fiftieth session of the Subcommission, several speakers, inter alia, referred to the measures that their Governments had put in place to implement the provisions of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Those included the signing of agreements with neighbouring countries, extradition treaties, improved control at entry and exit points and the creation of task forces to combat drug trafficking. Some speakers stressed the importance of creating national coordinating bodies to tackle drug demand and supply that involved all agencies concerned, as well as of building the capacity of the judiciary for handling drug cases.

V. Organization of future meetings of the subsidiary bodies

38. Possible topics for the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to be held in 2016 were discussed and identified at the respective meetings.

39. The attention of the Commission and the members of its subsidiary bodies is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/15, entitled "Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies: Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean", in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene those three regional meetings at the capitals of States in the respective regions that might wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned, annually, beginning in 1988. Accordingly, the Commission should encourage member States in the different regions to consider hosting forthcoming meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies where no host had been identified and to coordinate with the Secretariat as soon as possible to allow sufficient time for the organizational arrangements to be made.

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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem: follow-up to the high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in view of the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

In its resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs welcomed and reiterated its support to the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan. The Commission continued to call upon Member States, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other entities, to ensure the full implementation of the Vienna Declaration, the outcome document of the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan held on 16 February 2012, as the framework for all future action within the four agreed areas for enhanced cooperation. As requested by the Commission, the present report describes steps taken by UNODC to implement the resolution in 2015, the second year of implementation of the fourth phase of the initiative.

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I. Background

1. The Vienna Declaration adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Paris Pact Partners on Combating Illicit Traffic in Opiates Originating in Afghanistan held on 16 February 2012,[1] is a statement of international commitment to act in a balanced and comprehensive manner against the menace of opiates originating in Afghanistan. In the Declaration, participants prioritized four main areas for enhanced cooperation, also known as pillars: strengthening and implementing regional initiatives to combat illicit traffic in opiates originating in Afghanistan; detecting and blocking financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates; preventing the diversion of precursor chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of opiates in Afghanistan; and reducing drug abuse and dependence through a comprehensive approach. The Third Ministerial Conference was an important landmark for the Paris Pact, as partners reaffirmed their common and shared responsibility for combating opiates. The Vienna Declaration serves as a blueprint for the Paris Pact partnership's activities in acknowledgement of the need to mainstream counter-narcotics efforts and policy into building security, democracy and prosperity in Afghanistan.

2. Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/3 entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in combating illicit opiates originating in Afghanistan through continuous and reinforced support to the Paris Pact initiative" recognized the initiative's importance as one of the most significant international frameworks and a unique platform for genuine partnership between Member States, competent international organizations and other relevant stakeholders in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan.[2] In the resolution, the Commission requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide regular reports to it on the progress achieved and measures taken in implementation of the fourth phase of the Paris Pact initiative.

3. The Paris Pact has two dimensions. The first is the partnership itself, made up of 58 countries and 22 organizations including UNODC. That partnership is responsible for defining priorities and implementing measures in line with the Vienna Declaration, following the principle of shared responsibility. The second dimension is the global programme established by UNODC on behalf of the partnership to provide coordination support through that global programme's three components: the consultative mechanism, the research and liaison officer network, and information management. The fourth phase of the programme, which is currently under way, was initially set up by the partners for three years (2013-2016) with a total budget of approximately $5 million.

4. The Paris Pact partnership continues to play a pivotal role as a global platform for concrete action aimed at the reduction of the illicit traffic in opiates, including the cultivation of opium poppy and the production and global consumption of opiates, by prioritizing technical assistance and providing stronger evidence for coordinated action.

[1] See E/CN.7/2012/17.

[2] See E/CN.7/2013/14.

5. The efforts taken by Paris Pact partners to combat the threat posed by opiates were further reinforced by Security Council resolution 2210 (2015) adopted on 16 March 2015, which welcomed the ongoing work of the Paris Pact initiative as one of the most important frameworks in the fight against opiates originating in Afghanistan, took note of the Vienna Declaration, and emphasized the aim of the Paris Pact to establish a broad international coalition to combat the traffic of illicit opiates, as part of a comprehensive approach to peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, the region and beyond. In the resolution, like in similar resolutions adopted in previous years, the Security Council stressed the importance of the initiative in countering the production, trafficking and consumption of opium and heroin from Afghanistan and the elimination of opium poppy crops, drug laboratories and stores as well as the interception of drug convoys.

6. Following the recommendations that resulted from the in-depth evaluation of the third phase of the UNODC Paris Pact initiative, the objective of its current fourth phase is to pursue an operationally oriented approach in line with the four priority areas for action as outlined in the Vienna Declaration, with a view to facilitating collaboration among the partners. The second year of implementation of the fourth phase, 2015, has been successfully completed with the partnership expressing a clear commitment to expanding the initiative's timeline and geographical coverage.

7. The Paris Pact is more relevant than ever among international frameworks and initiatives in the area of drug control and international cooperation. Those include the Heart of Asia Istanbul Process and other regional initiatives led by Paris Pact partners. The four areas for strengthened cooperation defined in the Vienna Declaration are fully in line with the topics of the forthcoming discussions at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.

8. Activities implemented in support of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.[3] The three pillars related to law enforcement fall within Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels). Three pillars are particularly relevant to targets of the Sustainable Development Goals: the first pillar (regional initiatives) is relevant to target 16.a (Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime); the second pillar (financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates) to target 16.4 (By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime); and the fourth pillar (drug prevention and health) to target 3.5 (Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse).

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

II. Status of implementation of Commission resolution 56/3

A. Strategic and expert-level dialogue

9. In line with the objectives for 2015, the second year of implementation of the fourth phase, set by Paris Pact partners in September 2014 at the eleventh Policy Consultative Group meeting, one expert working group meeting was held on each of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration, and the Paris Pact Policy Consultative Group held its twelfth meeting, on 15 and 16 December 2015. A joint meeting of the three expert working groups covering the pillars related to law enforcement was hosted in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 1 to 5 June 2015, by the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre. This joint meeting is known as the "tri-fold expert working group" and, in particular, deals with regional initiatives (first pillar), financial flows linked to illicit traffic in opiates (second pillar) and the diversion of precursor chemicals (third pillar). The expert working group meeting held in Bishkek on 25 and 26 June 2015, which was hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, covered drug prevention and health (fourth pillar). The expert-level meetings built on the discussions of previous expert forums held during 2014, the first year of implementation of the fourth phase.

10. The tri-fold expert meeting comprised separate thematic meetings dedicated to illicit financial flows, precursors and cross-border cooperation, as well as joint sessions to reflect the cross-cutting nature of the issues discussed.

11. The first two and a half days of the tri-fold meeting were dedicated to illicit financial flows (the second pillar) and included a joint session with the meeting on precursors, which focused on using financial investigations to counter the illicit supply in precursors. Participants explored the business model of the illicit opiate enterprise and the development and implementation of disruption strategies focused on effects. Other topics discussed were the development of a community of financial investigators at the national and international levels; supporting the disruption of drug trafficking with financial investigations; detecting, investigating and disrupting abuse of money and value transfer systems; developing good practices in regional and international alert systems, and understanding and disrupting "nexus" threats (e.g. drug trafficking and terrorism). For the first time the tri-fold expert working group invited major players from private sector financial services providers, which was instrumental in understanding the role of the private sector in countering illicit financial flows.

12. On the third and fourth days of its meeting, the tri-fold expert working group discussed precursors (the third pillar of the Vienna Declaration). Two joint sessions were held, one with the thematic meeting on illicit financial flows and another with the thematic meeting on cross-border cooperation, the latter focusing on maritime trafficking. Participants looked into ways to disrupt precursor trafficking through financial investigations and ways to use financial investigations to identify drug trafficking networks engaged in the illicit supply of precursors. They stressed the importance of private sector partnerships in tackling the criminal abuse of online purchase platforms. The meeting reviewed trends, routes and techniques used to smuggle precursor chemicals destined for use in illicit heroin production with a view to improving interregional cooperation and information-sharing.

13. The last two days of the tri-fold expert meeting were dedicated to cross-border cooperation (the first pillar of the Vienna Declaration) and included a joint session with the working group on precursors. Partners explored issues related to interregional cooperation and information-sharing. For the first time, maritime trafficking was an area of focus during a Paris Pact expert meeting, and for that reason organizations and programmes working specifically in that area were represented.

14. The tri-fold meeting was attended by 25 countries including Kenya, Oman and Qatar, as well as 10 international organizations, including the Combined Maritime Forces. The fact that these parties, which are not Paris Pact partners, participated for the first time, indicated that interest in the Pact's activities is growing.

15. The last of the 2015 expert-level forums, the working group meeting on community-based and outpatient treatment (the fourth pillar of the Vienna Declaration) coincided with World Drug Day. It focused on health-centred and comprehensive treatment measures in the community for people suffering from drug use disorders. Participants explored ways to increase the availability of treatment services in the community and to improve their effectiveness through utilization of the best scientific knowledge. Other issues discussed included a framework for development of health-centred and evidence-based outpatient treatment in the community, and the development or enhancement of already existing programmes for medication-assisted treatment. Partners also assessed progress and prioritized conclusions with concrete and measurable proposals for practicable development.

16. Reflecting the partnership's focus on developing adequate responses to the drug problem, each expert meeting aimed at identifying concrete actions required to address priority gaps under each of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. All 2015 expert meetings demonstrated the relevance of the cross-cutting approach to tackling opiate issues and the fact that global, regional and even national responses are not sustainable if presented in the form of stand-alone projects and structures.

17. The recommendations put forward by the expert working groups were considered and approved at the twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting, held in Vienna on 15 and 16 December 2015, which resulted in a series of strategic discussions regarding the future of the initiative. The objectives of the meeting included a review of the gap analysis initiated at the expert meetings and further developed in subsequent months, a decision on priorities for expert dialogue in 2016, and a discussion on potential hosts for future expert working group meetings.

18. The twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting further discussed and recognized the importance of cross-cutting issues related to the pillars of the Vienna Declaration related to law enforcement, such as research, financial investigations, information-sharing, capacity-building and legal frameworks, and looked into how those cross-cutting issues could be addressed in an integrated way. A number of UNODC programmes in support of the Paris Pact priorities were presented at the meeting with a view to outlining options for an integrated "one-UNODC" response.

19. Partners further indicated their interest in monitoring, as part of future expert-level discussions, the progress achieved under the newly adopted national drug action plan of Afghanistan. The national action plan aimed at decreasing the

cultivation of opium poppy and the production of opiates, while addressing issues related to drug demand reduction and drug treatment.

20. A key outcome of the event was the renewed commitment to the process, which the partners expressed unanimously. The partners also supported the extension of the current phase of the UNODC Paris Pact programme. Engaging with new donors and involving various members of the partnership in discussions was also among the aims of the policy meeting. The high-level meeting of partners for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, which was held on 14 December 2015, was organized in close coordination, and held back-to-back, with the Paris Pact policy meeting, which resulted in a particularly high level of representation at both events.

21. The growing recognition of the important role played by the Paris Pact is evidenced by the continued increase in the number of partners. Thus, the twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting was the occasion for endorsing the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism as an additional Paris Pact partner.

B. Update on the UNODC Paris Pact programme in support of the initiative

22. The expert and policy meetings described above make up the first component of the Paris Pact programme, the consultative mechanism.

23. In support of the consultative mechanism, the Paris Pact Coordination Unit for the first time presented its new reporting format, the Paris Pact report for 2014, at the eleventh Policy Consultative Group meeting, held at the end of 2014, the first year of implementation of the fourth phase. The Paris Pact report for 2015 will be disseminated in early 2016. The report is put together at the request of the partnership. It is based on available information about the implementation of priority measures decided and recommendations made by expert working groups. The information contained in the report is in line with the Paris Pact mandate to strengthen cooperation among partners along the major drug trafficking routes, the focus of which is evolving from the northern route to the Balkan route, and further on to certain parts of the southern route.

24. In addition to the annual reporting exercise, the Paris Pact questionnaires about the first, third and fourth pillars (regional initiatives, the diversion of precursor chemicals, and drug prevention and health, respectively) were developed during 2014, the first year of implementation of the fourth phase, with a view to obtaining more comprehensive information on the implementation of those pillars. The Tashkent questionnaire, relating to illicit financial flows (the second pillar), was developed during the third phase of the initiative. At the time of writing of the present report, completed questionnaires had been received from 37 per cent of the Paris Pact partners. Once analysed, the information provided will be used as a basis for further expert discussions by the UNODC sections leading the process under each pillar.

25. During the reporting period, the network of Paris Pact research and liaison officers deployed along the northern and the Balkan routes contributed to the

preparation of a number of UNODC reports and studies, including the study "Drug money: the illicit proceeds of opiates trafficked on the Balkan route", which was prepared by the UNODC Research and Trend Analysis Branch of the Division for Policy Analysis in collaboration with the regional section for Europe and for West and Central Asia through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries and the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe.

26. Data collection on developments along major opiate trafficking routes represents an important aspect of the research and liaison officers' work in support of the implementation of the Paris Pact mandate, and is performed under the technical guidance of the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and overall supervision of the Research and Trend Analysis Branch. The research and liaison officers, who are based at the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, were closely involved in capacity-building for law enforcement officials in Central Asia and the wider region jointly with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project and the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

27. The Drugs Monitoring Platform is an online tool that was jointly initiated and consistently supported with human and financial resources by the Paris Pact programme and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. It is managed by the coordination and analysis unit based at the Regional Office for Central Asia, and supports the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, and the programme for Central Asia. It has proved to be increasingly valuable, particularly in facilitating the implementation by the Paris Partnership of Commission resolution 56/3. It is a powerful mechanism for monitoring drug-related data by means of multi-layered mapping and for obtaining evidence on counter-narcotics developments and measures in support of the four pillars of the Vienna Declaration. The Platform can be used to create a comprehensive picture of the situation in the region and beyond, so that more information can be made available to stakeholders. The Platform is populated with data provided by Paris Pact partners, collected mainly by the field-based research and liaison officers and research staff working for the Afghan Opiate Trade Project. The Platform is part of the UNODC global data collection process and has a strong potential for growth in both volume and usability.

28. The Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (ADAM) was developed during the second phase of the Paris Pact initiative as an Internet-based tool for coordinating counter-narcotics technical assistance in countries along the main trafficking routes for opiates from Afghanistan. ADAM securely and instantly provides partners with essential information on who is doing what, where and when in the field of counter-narcotics. The aim is to avoid duplication of activities. In recent years, ADAM has been developed beyond its initial function as a project database and has evolved into an active information hub with a variety of additional functionalities that cover a wide array of issues related to the Paris Pact and, in particular, the implementation of the Vienna Declaration. The latter aspect was further refined during the reporting period to increase user-friendliness of the available functionalities.

C. Synergies

29. From its onset in 2003, the Paris Pact process gave rise to an interregional, interdivisional and inter-thematic approach by UNODC, the technical lead organization of the Paris Pact, involving coordination with relevant sections, units, programmes and partner organizations. These interconnections were further elaborated during the fourth phase.

30. The Paris Pact programme closely interacts with UNODC at the global, regional and country levels, including through the regional section for Europe and for West and Central Asia (through the regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the regional programme for South-Eastern Europe and the programme for Central Asia), the justice section (through the Maritime Crime Programme), the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch (through its implementation support section, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, the global Container Control Programme and the new global programme on building effective networks against transnational organized crime), the Drug Prevention and Health Branch (through its prevention, treatment and rehabilitation section), the Research and Trend Analysis Branch (through its statistics and survey section, and the Afghan Opiate Trade Project).

31. Apart from its cooperation with UNODC, the Paris Pact programme has partnerships with organizations that play a leading role at the expert level, including the International Narcotics Control Board, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Police Office (Europol), the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and other actors that are interested in the Paris Pact's discussions but are not yet partners, such as the Combined Maritime Forces.

32. In addition to already well-established initiatives engendered by earlier Paris Pact discussions, important developments unfolded during the reporting period that were also rooted in the Paris Pact process. Those included the adoption by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of its resolution 58/6 on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit financial flows linked to drug trafficking, from the anti-money-laundering perspective, and the "networking the networks" initiative, which is part of the new global programme on building effective networks against transnational organized crime.

33. The progress of the expert-level dialogue was largely driven by the active involvement of UNODC thematic lead experts from the Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and the Drug Prevention and Health Branch, who provided technical guidance at all implementation stages related to organizing, conducting and following up the four thematic expert working groups during the reporting period.

34. The regional programmes continued to play an important role in operationalizing strategies by acting as the principal operational delivery vehicle for the Paris Pact in the respective regions. The regional programme for Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, supported by the respective country and subregional programmes, is uniquely positioned to increase the coherence and effectiveness of Paris Pact partners' activities in the countries of the region.

35. However, newly emerging routes and trends in opiate trafficking pose new challenges and require the partnership to adjust accordingly, including by broadening the geographic coverage of the Paris Pact, in particular to include the southern opiate trafficking route. The growing importance of the southern route calls for more intense involvement in the Paris Pact by relevant thematic and regional programmes such as the Maritime Crime Programme and the regional programmes for the Arab States and East Africa.

36. The additional focus placed on the southern routes also requires improved data collection. Funding permitting, the fourth phase mandates the Paris Pact programme to expand the research and liaison officer network. Options for jointly stepping up research capacity are currently being explored with the Afghan Opiate Trade Project, and include making joint use of the field staff networks. In pursuing this approach, the Paris Pact programme will be working to engage with key regional players, who as partners to the initiative will be encouraged to extend their involvement.

D. Sustainability of the Paris Pact programme

37. Currently the fourth phase of the Paris Pact programme is financially supported by Austria, France, India, Norway, the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. As a consequence of the continuous fundraising efforts of the Paris Pact Coordination Unit, discussions are under way with partners with a view to expanding the donor base to ensure consistent funding of the programme. The decision to extend the fourth phase, taken at the twelfth Policy Consultative Group meeting, will make it possible to implement the full agenda for 2016 (the third year of the fourth phase), which includes meetings of four expert working groups, an independent evaluation of the fourth phase, the thirteenth Policy Consultative Group meeting (which concludes the third year), and, potentially, a fourth Paris Pact ministerial conference proposed by partners for early 2017. The precise parameters of the programme's extension will be defined and partners informed at the start of 2016. At the time of writing the present report, funding for the Paris Pact programme had been secured until the end of March 2016 only, meaning that any activities beyond that date would require additional funding support.

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Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and strengthening the drug programme and the role of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as its governing body, including administrative, budgetary and strategic management questions

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Twenty-fifth session
Vienna, 23-27 May 2016
Item 3 of the provisional agenda**
Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019

Note by the Secretariat

Pursuant to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have before them, for their information, the proposed biennial programme plan for programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice. The proposed plan will be issued in due course under the symbol A/71/6 (Prog. 13). An unedited advance version of the proposed plan will be circulated to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs as a conference room paper. The proposed plan was discussed extensively at meetings of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and was considered, as contained in a conference room paper (E/CN.7/2015/CRP.8-E/CN.15/2015/CRP.8), at the joint meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held on 10 December 2015, during their reconvened sessions. The Commissions, at their reconvened sessions, expressed support for the proposed plan, which was subsequently transmitted to the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-sixth session. The Committee's recommendations on the proposed

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biennial programme plan will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session in conjunction with its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.